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(b) if answer to (a) be in the affirmative, why the Government have not thrown open the committees to election?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) As it was not found possible to do so.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—"With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know what stands in the way of holding elections?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"The Hindu Religious Endowments Board advised Government that it was not found possible to hold the elections now."

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—"Is it in accordance with the existing Endowments Act to continue to nominate members to the Temple Committees?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—"It must be."

Public Health

Improvements to the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital.

* 1784 Q.—Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) when the revised estimates for certain improvements to the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital were sanctioned by Government;

(b) how long the Public Works Department was engaged in preparing this revised estimate;

(c) what is the amount of the original estimate and that of the revised estimate;

(d) when the work will be put in hand; and

(e) what funds are to be allotted for expenditure in 1929-30 on the above work according to the budget proposals now under the consideration of the Government?

A.—(a) The revised estimate has not yet been sanctioned.

(b) A complete statement of the requirements of the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital and the Lady Willingdon Medical School for Women was furnished to the Chief Engineer by the Surgeon-General in September 1927. The revised plans and estimates were received through the Surgeon-General in February 1928.

(c) The scheme as originally drawn up by Major-General Symons (the then Surgeon-General) was estimated to cost Rs. 8·55 lakhs. It was subsequently found that the scheme did not include several essential items of work. The amount of the revised estimate received in February 1928 was Rs. 14·50 lakhs, but this has, after careful scrutiny in consultation with the Surgeon-General and the Chief Engineer, since been reduced to Rs. 12·25 lakhs.

(d) It is not possible to say exactly when the work will be put in hand. The scheme will be placed before the Legislative Council for approval shortly. Detailed plans and estimates have also to be prepared.

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(e) No provision for the work has been included in the Civil Budget Estimates for 1929-30 as it is proposed that the expenditure during the first year should be met from the proceeds of the invested funds forming the endowment of the hospital.

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"Sir, as the repairs are very urgent, may I request the hon. the Minister to visit the place and satisfy himself whether the need is not urgent?" 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I shall visit the place and ascertain the urgency of the matter and then I shall, if necessary, expedite the most urgent matters."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know whether the hon. the Minister has visited any hospitals before?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I have visited a large number of hospitals; and I generally visit them before giving the final sanction."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"If so, may I know why he has not chosen to visit this hospital?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Because the plans and estimates are not yet ready, and when they are ready I shall go and visit the place."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"In view of the fact that the matter is an urgent one why did he not visit it beforehand?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The need is already known and how far the need can be satisfied is the subject under consideration and when the scheme is ready I shall visit the hospital."

Supply of clothing and bedding to the hospitals by the jails.

* 1785 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the jails are able to manufacture and supply in time all the clothing and bedding required for the hospitals; and

(b) if not, what arrangements are made for meeting this need?

A.—(a) & (b) Generally the Jail Department is able to supply all the articles required. On the very rare occasions when it is not able to supply any article, it is purchased locally.

The Advisory Committees constituted for the District Headquarters hospitals.

* 1786 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the advisory committees constituted for the district headquarters hospitals are functioning properly; and

(b) whether the Government propose to extend this committee system to all hospitals under their management?

A.—(a) From a report on the working of the advisory committees received in August last, the Government observe that the committees generally have not taken as much interest in the administration of the hospitals as they expected. They have